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Bill Number: OPPOSE HB1257

I am the owner of Tyler Firearms in Halethorpe and I adamantly OPPOSE HB1257. This bill will do nothing but turn your law-abiding constituents into subjects of criminal investigations without any reasonable suspicion or probable cause. Do we create video and audio recordings of pharmacy transactions to catch the potential meth labs? No. Do we make video and audio recordings of home improvement centers and gas stations for people purchasing fertilizer and diesel fuel to catch the potential bomber? No. Do we make video and audio recordings of every alcohol transaction to catch potential drunk drivers? No. Do we create audio and video recordings of everyone at parks or schools to catch the soon-to-be child molester? No. Why don't we do these things? We would be able to stop all of these crimes before they even happen. We don't do them because it would violate our civil rights by "assuming" that these activities are criminal in nature without any reasonable suspicion or probable cause that a crime has been committed. They would all violate our civil rights, but for some reason, when it comes to law-abiding gun owners, civil liberties get thrown out the window and we become subjects of criminal investigations just because we choose to participate in a sport you don't agree with, or have decided to defend our families from the criminal element among us that YOU seem to care more about than us law-abiding constituents.

I've conducted an informal survey of some of our customers and they all have the same responses. When asked if video and audio recording of each firearm transaction would be acceptable to them to catch straw purchasers, they all said "yes". When told that the recordings would be made available to Maryland State Police at any time for any reason, their responses changed to an emphatic "no". They all said it would violate their right to privacy, and it is of no concern of the government about what they legally purchase. Nearly all of them seemed very concerned about "big brother" sticking their noses even deeper into our personal lives.

For me as a firearm retailer to comply with this bill if it becomes law would cost me approximately \$3,000 for body cameras for my employees and an additional \$7,000 for me to have audio recording in every place of my store. We're a small store, as well. This cost would easily triple or quadruple for larger stores in the state. The cost alone would cause hard-working people to close their business and put countless people out of work. Some of the firearms retailer in Maryland have supported their communities with jobs and paying taxes for generations. Do we really want to put these people out of business? I'm going to assume your answer is "no".

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to provide an UNFAVORABLE report on SB1257. I can be reached by email at [cspafford@tylerfirearms.com](mailto:cspafford@tylerfirearms.com) or by phone at 410-921-6393 with any questions, or if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Charles Spafford  
President/COO

Tyler Firearms, LLC.  
<https://tylerfirearms.com>

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